

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 13-20 are pending. Independent claims 1, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are amended.

As a preliminary matter, an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on May 8, 2006. The Examiner is requested to return a copy of Form PTO/SB/08 which has been initialed to show consideration of the references cited therein.

Claims 1-8 and 13-20 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0157801 (Kozawa et al.). Favorable reconsideration of this rejection is requested in view of the amendments made herein.

The independent claims have been amended to employ “consisting of” language. Furthermore, the amended claims set forth optional components of the composition, as supported by page 19 of the specification. The amended claims are not anticipated by Kozawa et al.

Kozawa et al. requires a crosslinking agent, which is excluded from the scope of the present claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,319,853 (Ishibashi et al.). Favorable reconsideration of this rejection is earnestly solicited.

Ishibashi et al. discloses a resist which also requires a crosslinking agent. Accordingly, the presently pending claims are not anticipated by Ishibashi et al.

Amendment
Application No. 10/670,291
Attorney Docket No. 031181

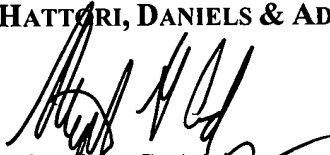
For at least the foregoing reasons, the presently claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen G. Adrian", is written over the printed name.

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